

Application No. 09/842,225
Amendment dated 1 March 2004
Reply to Advisory Action of 29 January 2004

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REMARKS

Claims 157-207 and 209-215 are pending after this amendment. Claims 37-39, 43, 156 and 208 have been cancelled.

Claims 37-39, 43, 156 and 208

The Office Action dated 7 October 2003 cited US Patent No. 4,333,009 (Stevens) in relation to claims 37-39, 43, 156 and 208. The Applicant has cancelled claims 37-39, 43, 156 and 208 solely to expedite the prosecution of the current application. The Applicant specifically reserves the right to present claims to the subject matter of claims 37-39, 43, 156 and 208 in a continuation or continuation in part application and, if necessary, to submit arguments explaining why those claims are patentable over Stevens.

Claims 157-207 and 209-215

In the Office Action dated 7 October 2003, the Examiner indicated that claims 157-207 and 209-215 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Advisory Action dated 29 January 2004 indicates that the Examiner did not enter the amendments proposed by the Applicant in its Reply dated 22 December 2003. Accordingly, the Applicant has revised the proposed amendments as indicated in the listing of claims presented above. More particularly, the Applicant has amended claims 157, 182, 188, 209 and 212 and submits that these claims have been amended to include all of the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

The Applicant submits that claims 157-207 and 209-215 are now in condition for allowance.

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Conclusions

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments and remarks presented above.

Respectfully submitted,
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